

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT
Memo

Date: 11/10/11

To: Shane DeForest, Pinedale Field Manager

From: Adaptive Management Review Team (Mark Thonhoff, Josh Hemenway, Theresa Gulbrandson, Therese Hartman, and Kellie Roadifer)

Subject: Sage-grouse matrix threshold changes

The adaptive management team has reviewed the proposed sage-grouse matrix mitigation threshold changes for determination of whether the proposal has merit, whether the proposed changes are time sensitive thus requiring the convening of a special planning meeting, and whether or not the proposed changes are in conformance with current NEPA.

The adaptive management review team concurs with BLM and WYGFD response to the UW COOP review, that the nesting success and habitat selection monitoring component be dropped from the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Matrix as shown below. In addition, the review team feels the proposed changes are in accordance with the objectives of the Anticline SEIS ROD, 2008, specifically Appendix E; and with the analysis contained in the Anticline FSIES. The team has determined this change will require immediate attention in order to allow for appropriate modifications to applicable monitoring contracts.

The proposed sage grouse matrix threshold changes are as follows:

Criteria: "Nesting Success and habitat selection"

Proposed Action: Withdraw this criteria and delete this cell from the Matrix

Method: "Current sage grouse study: WGFD data"

Proposed Action: Withdraw this criteria and delete this cell from the Matrix

Changes that Will be Monitored: "Change in nesting success compared to reference areas, or change in nesting success and a concurrent change in habitat selection by nesting hens in relation to development disturbance"

Proposed Action: Withdraw this criteria and delete this cell from the Matrix

Specific Change Requiring Mitigation: "Average of 15% per year decline over 2 years in nesting success compared to reference area, or a 0.5km increase in avoidance distance per year over 2 consecutive years and a concurrent change of an average of 15% per year decline over 2 years in nesting success compared to reference area."

Proposed Action: Withdraw this criteria and delete this cell from the Matrix

Mitigation Responses: "Select mitigation response sequentially as listed below, implement most useful and feasible and monitor results over sufficiently adequate